

## REMARKS

In the last-filed Amendment Applicant argued the allowability of independent Claim 1 on the ground that the cited Shinohara patent did not disclose that the first and second amplifiers have different gains, whereas the sensor unit and the memory unit output signals have the same gain. In response, in the above-identified Office Action the Examiner pointed out that the respective amplifiers have different gains depending upon whether or not transistors are turned on or off (an “on gain” and an “off gain”, as also described in the present application at Page 4 as being, respectively, an “AC gain” and a “DC gain”).

By means of the foregoing Amendment, however, Applicants have revised Claim 1 in order to state that each of the first and second amplification transistors has a DC gain and an AC gain, and that at least one of those two gains differs between the respective first and second amplification transistors. Accordingly, as now presented, Claim 1 requires that either the “on gains” for the first and second amplification transistors differ, or that there is a difference between their “off gains”.

Applicant respectfully submits that Shinohara does not disclose such a requirement as now presented in Claim 1, wherein the first and second amplification transistors have different gain parameters while the sensor and memory output signals have the same gain. Also, since Shinohara fails to disclose the invention now presented in Claim 1, there would be no reason to modify the terms of Shinohara to comply with the requirements of Claims 4-12.

For all these various reasons it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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